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Man Charged with DUI, Child Abuse for Crash That Killed Man in a Wheelchair

A man has been charged with driving under the influence with his children aboard and killing a man on a wheelchair as he crossed a street in Long Beach, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Jesus Jorge Arias (dob 6/8/81) of Lakewood faces one felony count each of driving under the influence of an alcoholic beverage causing injury, driving with a .08% blood alcohol content causing injury and hit-and-run driving resulting in death as well as two felony counts of child abuse under circumstances or conditions likely to produce great bodily injury or death.

Arias pleaded not guilty to the charges today and is expected to return on May 21 to Department So1 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Long Beach Branch. Case NA111589 was filed on April 2.

On March 28, Arias allegedly ran over victim Kyle Dean McNeley, 29, near the corner of Bellflower Boulevard and Harvey Way, prosecutors said. The defendant is charged with having his 9-year-old son and 7-year-old daughter in the car when the crash happened, prosecutors added.

Arias was stopped soon after the fatal crash by good Samaritans at the scene of the accident.

If convicted as charged, Arias faces a possible maximum sentence of more than eight years in state prison.

The case remains under investigation by the Long Beach Police Department.

About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.